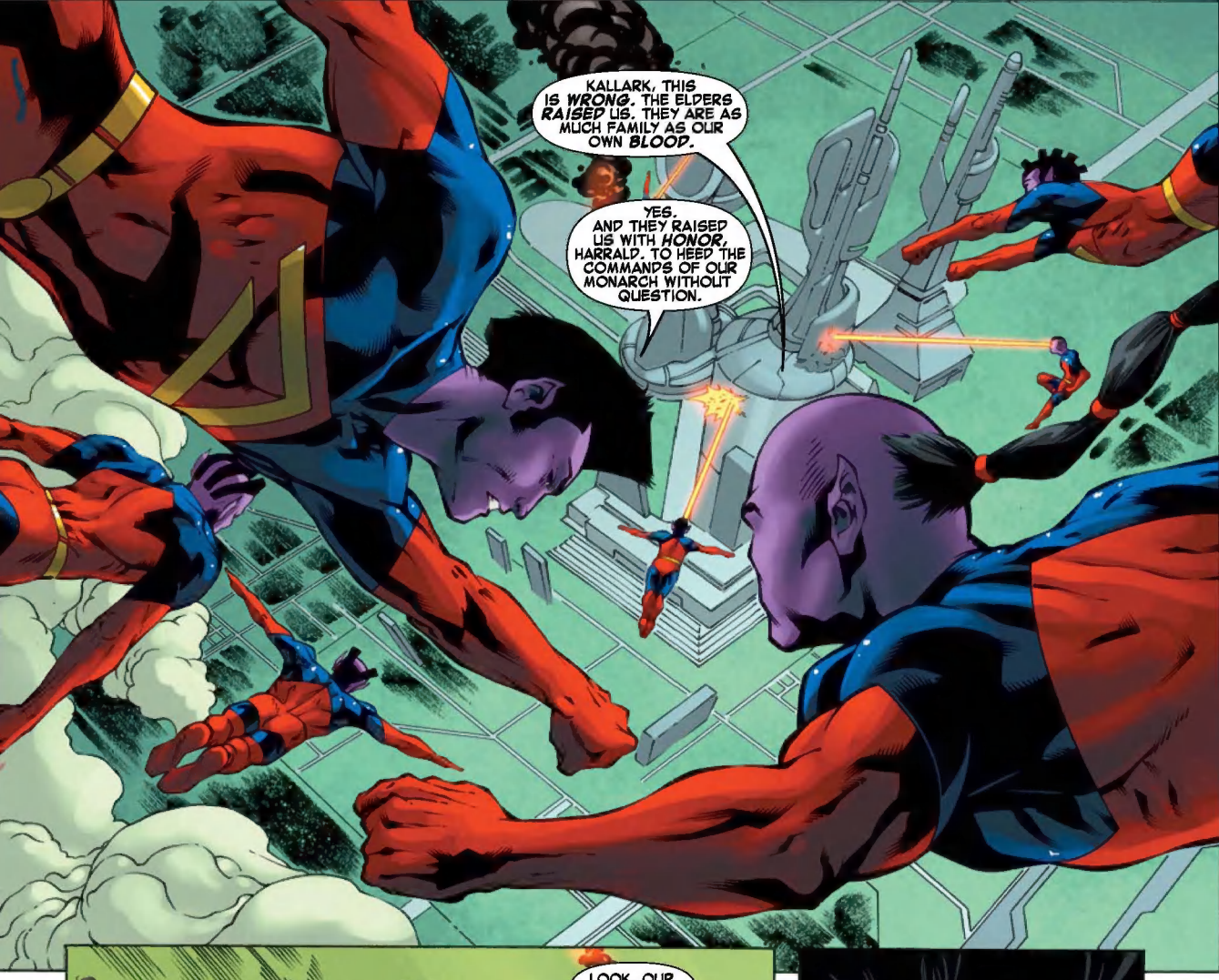
WAR of KINGS
WARRIORS
MARVEL DIGITAL COMICS
EXCLUSIVE

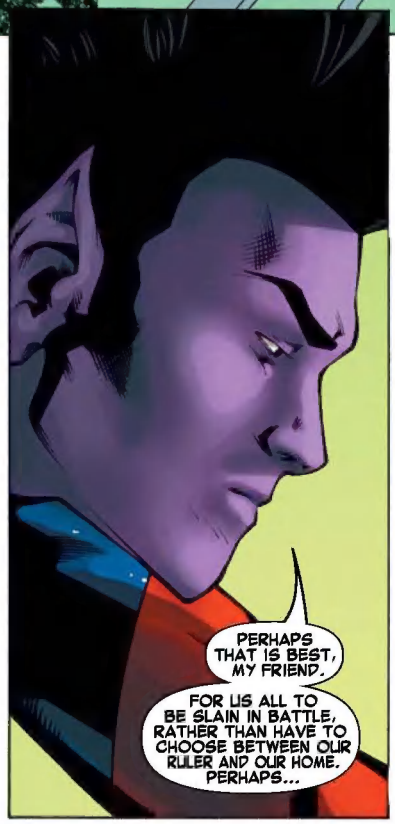
SHI'AR IMPERIAL FLAGSHIP, "SHARRA'S TALON."
Y-YOU'RE MAD! WE WOULD SOONER DIE THAN HARM THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS!
:TSK: THE YOUTH OF TODAY.
A MOMENT AGO, YOU WERE PLEDGING YOURSELVES TO MY SERVICE AS MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD. NOW YOU DEFY MY ORDERS AND INSULT MY ROYAL PERSON.
YOUR ORDERS ARE INSANE! AS ARE YOU!
IF I AM TO SLAY A MONARCH TODAY, IT SHALL BE MAJESTOR T'KORR!

OR NOT.
SHRAKK
PART 2
DUTY
CHRISTOS GAGE WRITER
MAHMUD ASRAR PENCILER
JEFFREY HUET & MAHMUD ASRAR INKERS
VAL STAPLES COLORIST
DAVE SHARPE LETTERER
MICHAEL HORWITZ ASST. EDITOR
BILL ROSEMANN & BEN MORSE EDITORS
JOE QUESADA EDITOR IN CHIEF
DAN BUCKLEY PUBLISHER
ALAN FINE EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
John Cerilli - Director of Digital Content Harry Go - Digital Coordinator Tim Smith 3 - Digital Production Manager

IT'S AS YOU SAID, CHANCELLOR. THE STRONTIANS' VAUNTED POWER *FADES* THE MOMENT THEY DOUBT THEMSELVES.
CADETS, YOUR COMRADE DOUBTED BECAUSE SHE *KNEW* SHE HAD SHAMED HERSELF!
YOUR PEOPLE PRIZE HONOR AND DUTY AS THE *HIGHEST* OF VIRTUES. YOU SWORE *UNDYING LOYALTY* TO THE SHI'AR THRONE. TO OBEY *ANY ORDER* GIVEN YOU.
WELL, I ORDERED YOU TO *RETURN* TO YOUR MUDBALL OF A PLANET AND *KILL* YOUR COUNCIL OF ELDERS!
DO YOU INTEND TO HEED YOUR SOVEREIGN? OR WOULD YOU PREFER TO DO AS YOUR LATE FRIEND HERE, AND FOLLOW DISHONOR WITH *DEATH?*
DECIDE QUICKLY, FOR MY PATIENCE GROWS THIN!
WE...
...WE *OBEY,* MAJESTOR.

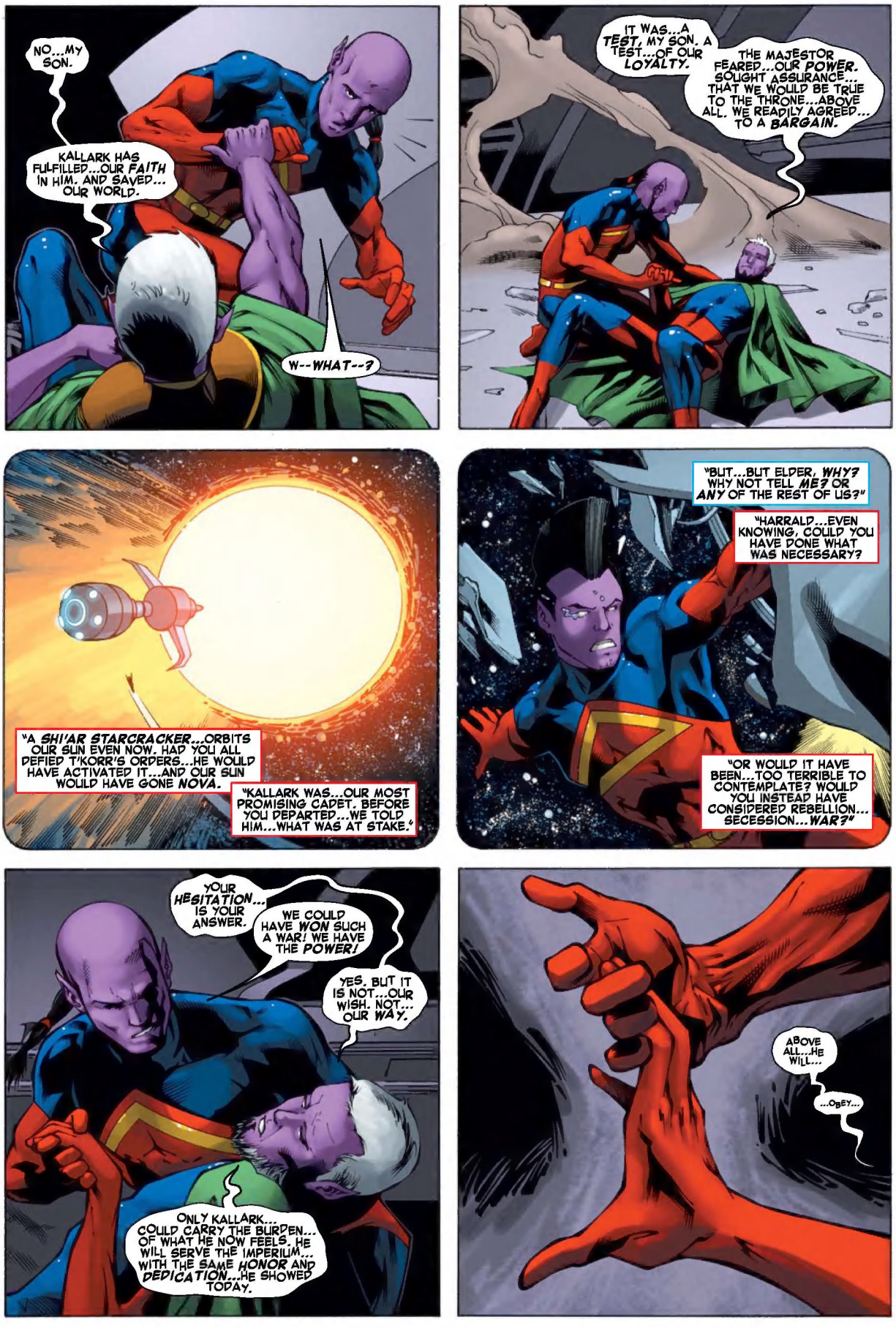

KALLARK, THIS IS *WRONG*. THE ELDERS *RAISED* US. THEY ARE AS MUCH FAMILY AS OUR OWN *BLOOD*.
YES. AND THEY RAISED US WITH *HONOR*, HARRALD. TO HEED THE COMMANDS OF OUR MONARCH WITHOUT QUESTION.

LOOK. OUR FELLOWS FALL AROUND US.
THE GLADIATOR PROCESS HAS MADE US THE STRONGEST OF OUR KIND, YET THEIR INVULNERABILITY LEAVES THEM...
...BECAUSE THEY *KNOW* WHAT WE ARE DOING IS *OBSCENE*.


PERHAPS THAT IS BEST, MY FRIEND.
FOR US ALL TO BE SLAIN IN BATTLE, RATHER THAN HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN OUR RULER AND OUR HOME. PERHAPS...

...NO. THOSE ARE THE MEWLINGS OF A COWARD.
MY FEELINGS ARE IRRELEVANT.
I HAVE SWORN TO OBEY OUR MAJESTOR...
KALLARK! DON'T!
THRAKOOM
...AND I SHALL!
STAND ASIDE, GUARDS. I AM UNDER NO ORDERS TO HARM YOU.
ONLY THE ELDERS NEED DIE TODAY.
KALLARK--

--I AM SORRY, MY FRIEND, BUT I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN...
...EVEN IF I MUST TAKE YOUR LIFE.
YOU TALK AS IF YOU COULD, HARRALD.
BUT YOUR VOICE BETRAYS YOUR UNCERTAINTY.
I HAVE NONE.
THRNCH
I DO AS I MUST.
SHRRAAKKK
ELDERS! NO!!
HOLD TIGHTLY TO LIFE. I SHALL HELP IF I CAN... OR, FAILING THAT, AVENGE YOU.


NO...MY SON.
KALLARK HAS FULFILLED...OUR FAITH IN HIM. AND SAVED... OUR WORLD.
W--WHAT--?
IT WAS...A TEST, MY SON. A TEST...OF OUR LOYALTY.
THE MAJESTOR FEARED...OUR POWER. SOUGHT ASSURANCE... THAT WE WOULD BE TRUE TO THE THRONE...ABOVE ALL. WE READILY AGREED... TO A BARGAIN.
"A SHI'AR STARCRACKER...ORBITS OUR SUN EVEN NOW. HAD YOU ALL DEFIED T'KORR'S ORDERS...HE WOULD HAVE ACTIVATED IT...AND OUR SUN WOULD HAVE GONE NOVA.
"KALLARK WAS...OUR MOST PROMISING CADET. BEFORE YOU DEPARTED...WE TOLD HIM...WHAT WAS AT STAKE.'
"BUT...BUT ELDER, WHY? WHY NOT TELL ME? OR ANY OF THE REST OF US?"
"HARRALD...EVEN KNOWING, COULD YOU HAVE DONE WHAT WAS NECESSARY?
"OR WOULD IT HAVE BEEN...TOO TERRIBLE TO CONTEMPLATE? WOULD YOU INSTEAD HAVE CONSIDERED REBELLION... SECESSION...WAR?"
YOUR HESITATION... IS YOUR ANSWER.
WE COULD HAVE WON SUCH A WAR! WE HAVE THE POWER!
YES. BUT IT IS NOT...OUR WISH. NOT... OUR WAY.
ONLY KALLARK... COULD CARRY THE BURDEN... OF WHAT HE NOW FEELS. HE WILL SERVE THE IMPERIUM... WITH THE SAME HONOR AND DEDICATION...HE SHOWED TODAY.
ABOVE ALL...HE WILL...
...OBEY...

STRONTIAN CADET KALLARK, MY LORD.
MAJESTOR.
I HAVE DONE AS YOU COMMANDED.
YOUR FELLOWS?
THEY... FELL IN BATTLE.
I SEE.
I CAN TELL FROM YOUR MANNER, KALLARK, THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THE TRUE PURPOSE OF YOUR MISSION.
DESPITE WHAT YOU MAY THINK, I AM NOT A CRUEL MAN.
THE SAFETY OF COUNTLESS WORLDS IN THE SHI'AR EMPIRE DEPENDS ON ME. THERE CAN BE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT. IN A RULER... OR THOSE ON WHOM HE RELIES.
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF.
YOU SHALL LEAD MY NEW IMPERIAL GUARD. YOU SHALL BE ITS PRAETOR.
THROUGHOUT THE IMPERIUM, THE CITIZENS OF ALL THE SHI'AR WORLDS WILL PRAISE THE HONOR, THE DUTY, THE COURAGE...
"...OF GLADIATOR."

THE PLANET THRNN. NOW.
T'KORR WAS A HARD MAN...BUT A GOOD LEADER. HE PUT HIS SUBJECTS BEFORE HIMSELF.
CAN I SAY THE SAME FOR VULCAN?
IT DOES NOT MATTER.
HE IS MY MAJESTOR.
KRNCH
MY PLANET IS NOW GONE. WITH BUT ONE EXCEPTION, I AM THE LAST OF MY KIND.
WHY, THEN, DO I REMAIN LOYAL?
BECAUSE IT WAS THE LAST WISH OF THE ELDERS. BECAUSE IF I DO NOT, MY CENTURIES-LONG EXISTENCE--AND THEIR SACRIFICE--LOSES ALL MEANING.
BECAUSE I AM GLADIATOR.
AND I HAVE SWORN TO SERVE.
END.